Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS): Shelf to Shoreline Observatory Development

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SCCOOS was initiated in September 2004, to implement and evaluate new sensor and information technologies to facilitate the creation of an integrated, multi-disciplinary coastal observatory in the Southern California Bight. The predominant goals are to provide policy makers and managers with a better scientific basis to evaluate and design new management strategies and to manage risks. Real-time observations, model/data-based forecasts, and a flexible information distribution system will provide critical information to these users. To achieve these goals, a consortium of eleven Southern California universities and laboratories that surround the Southern California Bight (SCB) created the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System which brings together agencies, managers, and data provider/user groups with the implementers of the observatory within a single regional association. SCCOOS will integrate data and projects from local, state, and federal and individual institutional efforts to create an integrated, multidisciplinary coastal observatory in the SCB. We propose to continue pilot activities within the COTS program for the next 3 years to further the development and maturation of a functioning coastal observatory in Southern California. While this project will occur over the next three years, we are submitting only a one year detailed budget at this time due to the uncertainty in funding which results from the dependence of the COTS programs on yearly Congressional support.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Began the fabrication and installation of 3 multidisciplinary moorings in Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, and San Diego. Other in-situ observations (gliders, drifters, CTD) are being prepared for deployment,
- Initiated an automated shore station data collection program based upon sites established by state and federal funding. 8 sites are presently available,
- Began a CALCOFI cruise in-shore to coincide with stations occupied by water quality managers,
- Developed educational outreach program to 5th grade science students to meet State science requirements,
- Initiated the collection of data from NPDES monitoring data and shoreline water quality data,
- Began coordinating the installation of a long range CODAR in San Diego and San Clemente Island with USCG and USN personnel, and
- Initiated the construction of an operational regional ocean model and surfzone transport model. Testing conducted in San Diego and Los Angeles regions.